

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23658

Inspectors General are used by various levels of government to provide an opportunity to investigate concerns about fraud, waste, abuse or malfeasance prior to public court action.

Here in Idaho, such concerns have difficulty. They can be made to a supervisor (who may be part of the concern) or to a county prosecutor or to law enforcement if criminal behavior.

Idaho's recent history shows that having an entity to do an initial investigation could save the state time, money and help us produce a better "product" for our citizens.

This bill establishes an Inspector General Office within the Governor's Office. Though appointed by the Governor, the Inspector General serves a 6-year term and requires Senate confirmation. He/she may be removed only with Senate concurrence.

The Office of the Inspector General will not do prosecution but may refer cases to law enforcement. It is envisioned as a receiver of complaints and concerns, assuring citizens that their voices are heard and that the Governor's Directors can find out about issues and begin corrective action as early as possible.

FISCAL NOTE

It is difficult to assess how valuable early corrective action might be, but the likely cost for an Inspector General, two investigators and one support staff is about \$350,000 per year.

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